

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 552

By Butt

A RESOLUTION to designate the sixth day of February as “State Constitution Day” in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the first Constitution of Tennessee was “Done in Convention, at Knoxville, by unanimous consent, on the sixth day of February, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-six”; and

WHEREAS, Article XI, Declaration of Rights, of the first Constitution of Tennessee states in Section I: “That all power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority, and instituted for their peace, safety and happiness”; and

WHEREAS, since that historic day, the Constitution of Tennessee has guided the government of the State of Tennessee “for the common benefit” through the principles of liberty, equality, and fairness, at all times avoiding the imposition of “arbitrary power and oppression”; and

WHEREAS, because the Constitution of Tennessee has played and continues to play an important role in securing the freedom and self-determination of Tennesseans, it is most appropriate that we should establish a special day of commemoration in honor of this historic document; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that February 6, 2014, and the sixth day of February in each subsequent year be observed as “State Constitution Day” in Tennessee in commemoration of the adoption of the first Constitution of Tennessee in Knoxville on February 6, 1796.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Constitution of Tennessee shall be read aloud in the chambers of both the House of Representatives and the Senate at some time approximate

to February 6th during each annual legislative session by any legislators desiring to participate in such exercise.